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July 12, 2004

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUBJECT: Applicant: Houston et al.
 Serial No.: 10/080,053
 Filed: February 21, 2002
 For: SMART CULTURE VESSEL
 Group: 1744
 Examiner: Beisner, W.H.
 Docket No.: DR-332J

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a RESPONSE in reply to the Office Action mailed April 21, 2004 in the subject application.

If for any reason this RESPONSE is found to be INCOMPLETE, or if at any time it appears that a TELEPHONE CONFERENCE with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts at (781) 890-5678.

If any payment during prosecution is found to be incorrect, please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to my Deposit Account No. 09-0002. A copy of this letter is enclosed for use by the Finance Branch in the event that it is necessary to make any charge or credit to my deposit account.

In addition, pursuant to Rule 1.136(a)(3), the Office is hereby authorized to treat any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefor. Also, any request or Petition for an Extension of Time notwithstanding an inadvertent reference in the Petition to a shorter period of time is to be treated as requesting the appropriate length of time.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of the foregoing by returning the enclosed self-addressed postcard.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Thompkins, Jr.
Reg. No. 47,136

TET:ok
Enclosures

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 12, 2004.

Olga Kadish



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Houston, et al. Group: 1744
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Olga Kadish
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RESPONSE UNDER C.F.R. 1.116 -
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - GROUP 1744

This Response is in reply to the Final Office Action mailed April 21, 2004 in the subject application. In response to the Final Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.